

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-5012
1 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--June 1985

I. GENERAL

A. Confidence in Hong Kong banking was shaken during the month following the failure of one major bank and serious financial difficulties at several smaller institutions. After several days of emergency meetings, the Hong Kong Government announced that it would take over the insolvent Overseas Trust Bank, which had collapsed due to fraud by bank managers. The OTB collapse led to a run on other banks by depositors. The government's takeover of OTB and its assurances of honoring all withdrawal requests helped calm matters down, but there is still a good deal of nervousness in the financial community. The OTB affair sent the stock market in a tailspin, with share prices falling 5 percent in one day's trading. Meanwhile, according to local media reports, the PRC provided credit to several of the smaller banks that were experiencing difficulties. This was seen here as an indication of China's understanding of the delicate economic situation in Hong Kong.

B. Richard Williams, deputy principal officer at the Consulate, will be leaving Hong Kong in July to take up an assignment in Washington. He will be replaced by Arthur Kobler, currently the economic counselor in Beijing.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Beijing announced during the month that a new overseas edition of RENMIN RIBAO would become available starting 1 July. This new paper will be published in Hong Kong, Tokyo, San Francisco, and Paris, relying on satellite facsimile transmissions out of Beijing. Preliminary reports indicate that the paper will differ from the regular RENMIN RIBAO, providing ample reporting on China but with more appeal to an international audience. An unfortunate result of this development is that the regular edition of the paper, copies of which are now printed in Hong Kong and available on day of publication, will no longer be available here except by air mail subscription from Beijing. The printing facility now used for the regular paper will henceforth be used to run off the overseas edition. The bureau has arranged to start receiving the overseas edition as soon as it is available, and an airmail subscription to the regular paper has also been sent to Beijing. Future changes in the availability of Beijing television have also been reported. These might benefit the bureau, however. China is reported to have

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near the Hong Kong border. The intent is to make Beijing TV available to the people of Hong Kong. If successful, and China installs permanent transmitting facilities, we would probably be able to monitor Beijing TV directly rather than having to rely on Cable & Wireless to do it for us from Victoria Peak. We would no doubt be one of the few watchers. It is a well known fact that half of Guangdong Province--all those who can manage with whatever kind of antenna--watch Hong Kong television, rather than Beijing.

2. The mid-June hijacking of the TWA airliner temporarily altered AFP coverage arrangements. With Nicosia working round-the-clock, our bureau relinquished primary coverage responsibility for the Middle East during those hours when Nicosia would normally be closed. On the 26th, when Nicosia reverted to near normal operating hours, Hong Kong returned to primary coverage of the Middle East from 2230-0300 GMT. However, AFP generally carries little new reportage on the Middle East at those hours.

3. The first typhoon of the year, Hal, hit Hong Kong on 24-25 June, but did not affect bureau operations or cause any antenna damage. While the Consulate and much of Hong Kong was closed down on the 24th, most bureau employees made it to work.

B. Communications

The bureau's new 300 baud circuit continued to operate without any major difficulties during the month. Our technicians continued to experiment with the high-speed Comscribe printers in an effort to reduce paper slippage problems while using 5-ply roll paper. We have proposed to Engineering Division some minor printer modifications which our experiments indicate will improve the paper feed and reduce slippage.

C. Lateral Services

1. At the request of the deputy principal officer at the American Consulate in Guangzhou, we started pouching copies of most PRC items normally wirefilled to Guangzhou. This was made necessary by problems with the communications circuit into Guangzhou, which has resulted in a communications minimize. The Consulate has indicated that these problems may not be resolved for a number of months.

2. We received a message from the Consulate in Shanghai summarizing an article in the 10 June SHIJIE JINGJI DAQBAO (World Economic Herald). The message noted that the subject of the article (price gouging and red tape faced by firms from other provinces trying to do business in Shanghai) was dear to the hearts of U.S. business firms in China, and recommended that FBIS translate the full text of the item. This was done the following day upon receipt of the paper, with a copy pouching to Shanghai.

D. Technical

Technicians from Hong Kong Telephone visited the bureau and Mt. Butler to familiarize themselves with our setup in connection with the landline backup circuit we will be installing. Headquarters gave approval to purchase locally the terminal equipment required for the landline and a purchase contract is being worked up at this time.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel:

1. [redacted] departed PCS for Seoul on 14 June.

2. Teletypist [redacted] gave notice of intent to resign effective 25 July. Advertisements to fill the future vacancy have been placed.

3. After weeks of back and forth arguments between the Consulate and State Department, agreement was finally reached on the percentage increase for the spring FSN pay raise. The Consulate will be giving a 6.2% increase to all grades except 6, which will receive 1.1%. All of our employees, including grade 6, will receive the 6.2% retroactive to 12 May.

IV. VISITS

Senior editor [redacted] from Bangkok visited the bureau on 4 June while on a private visit to Hong Kong.

[redacted]
Bureau Chief

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Original ✓ and 3 - Hqs
C/Bangkok
C/Okinawa
C/Seoul

HONG KONG BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JUN 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	1025380
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	91440
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1426

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	5110	10140	271

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

CHINA	
BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN TAGALOG	14780
BEIJING TELEVISION SERVICE IN MANDARIN	990
CHANGSHA HUNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	21260
CHENGDU SICHUAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	9780
GUANGZHOU GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7330
GUIYANG GUIZHOU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	3650
HAIKOU HAINAN ISLAND SERVICE IN MANDARIN	1920
KUNMING YUNNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	6220
LANZHOU GANSU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8630
LHASA XIZANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	11380
NANNING GUANGXI REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	13770
URUMQI XINJIANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5560
WUHAN HUBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	12190
XIAN SHAANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	2210
XINING QINGHAI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	2890
ZHENGZHOU HENAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8020
BEIJING XINHUA HONG KONG SERVICE IN CHINESE	1660
BEIJING ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE IN CHINESE	29560

BEIJING BAN YUE TAN IN CHINESE	4520
BEIJING BAOGAO WENXUE IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING BEIJING REVIEW IN ENGLISH	13540
BEIJING BEIJING WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING CHINA DAILY IN ENGLISH	24950
BEIJING GONGREN RIBAO IN CHINESE	2980
BEIJING GUANGMING RIBAO IN CHINESE	40130
BEIJING GUOJI SHANGBAO IN CHINESE	4600
BEIJING GUOJI WENTI YANJIU IN CHINESE	5250
BEIJING HONGQI IN CHINESE	68780
BEIJING HUANQIU CHINESE	0
BEIJING JIEFANGJUN WENYI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI GUANLI IN CHINESE	31510
BEIJING JINGJI RIBAO IN CHINESE	10290
BEIJING JINGJIXUE ZHOUBAO IN CHINESE	7010
BEIJING JINGJI YANJIU IN CHINESE	30350
BEIJING LIAOWANG IN CHINESE	19460
BEIJING LISHI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING NONGMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	500
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	109870
BEIJING SHIJIE JINGJI IN CHINESE	3380
BEIJING SHIJIE LISHI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE ZHISHI IN CHINESE	4340
BEIJING WENXUE PINGLUN IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING WENYI BAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING WENZHAI BAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING XINWEN ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHEXUE YANJIU IN CHINESE	0

BEIJING ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO IN CHINESE	1960
BEIJING ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO IN CHINESE	0
CHENGDU SICHUAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	13760
CHONGQING CHONGQING RIBAO IN CHINESE	14180
FUZHOU ZHONGGUO JINGJI WENTI IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU RIBAO IN CHINESE	1680
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU KAIFANG IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU NANFANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	22030
GUANGZHOU YANGCHENG WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
HAIKOU HAINAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
KUNMING YUNNAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
LANZHOU LANZHOU WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
SHANGHAI SHIJIE JINGJI DAOBAO IN CHINESE	2000
TAIYUAN SHANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	27280
WUHAN CHANGJIANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
WUHAN HUBEI RIBAO IN CHINESE	840
XIAN SHAANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	4210
YINCHUAN NINGXIA RIBAO IN CHINESE	22020

HONG KONG	
HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN CANTONESE	600
HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN ENGLISH	190
HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LTD IN ENGLISH	0
HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO IN ENGLISH	310
HONG KONG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	440
HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH	123050
HONG KONG ASIAWEEK IN ENGLISH	2090

HONG KONG CHANWANG IN CHINESE	0
HONG KONG CHENG MING IN CHINESE	9970
HONG KONG CHING PAO IN CHINESE	0
HONG KONG CHIUSHIH NIENTAI IN CHINESE	0
HONG KONG FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW IN ENGLISH	5350
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD IN ENGLISH	6660
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD (BUSINESS STANDARD SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH	2460
HONG KONG HSIN WAN PAO IN CHINESE	5010
HONG KONG KUANG CHIAO CHING IN CHINESE	3400
HONG KONG MING PAO IN CHINESE	2700
HONG KONG PAI HSING IN CHINESE	20390
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST IN ENGLISH	20860
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (BUSINESS NEWS SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH	20420
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN CHINESE	5780
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN ENGLISH	2220
HONG KONG WEN WEI PO IN CHINESE	13290
NEW ZEALAND	
WELLINGTON OVERSEAS SERVICE IN ENGLISH	0
PHILIPPINES	
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN ENGLISH	14260
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN TAGALOG	1220
MANILA RADIO VERITAS IN TAGALOG	260
DAGUPAN CITY DZDL RADIO IN TAGALOG	0
QUEZON CITY MAHARLIKA BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN ENGLISH	17970
MANILA BULLETIN TODAY IN ENGLISH	15320
MANILA BUSINESS DAY IN ENGLISH	32970
MANILA METRO MANILA TIMES IN ENGLISH	4860

MANILA PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	4050
MANILA PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	480
MANILA TIMES JOURNAL IN ENGLISH	9730
DAVAO CITY PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM IN ENGLISH	2280
DAVAO CITY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	0
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO MIRROR BULLETIN IN ENGLISH	180
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR IN ENGLISH	0
QUEZON CITY ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA IN ENGLISH	17280
QUEZON CITY VERITAS IN ENGLISH	6110